

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

12 February 1973

Phil E. Gilbert, Jr., Esq.
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405 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

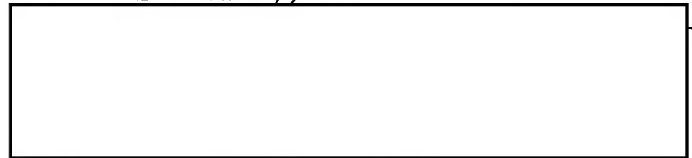
Enclosed is some of the material I discussed with you. The Earth article is probably one of the extreme examples of the new rewriting of history based on the conspiracy theory. The author, Peter Dale Scott, is a former Canadian Foreign Service Officer who, I believe, is now teaching at Berkeley. Alfred W. McCoy's book, The Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia is along the same line. The first thing to do is develop a thesis and then search for information of any sort from whatever source to support the thesis. All of this is surrounded with an air of objective research. However, in the McCoy case at any rate the objectivity is, to say the least, called in question by the report of the Staff Survey Team of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which I also enclose.

In themselves, perhaps, such books and articles are not too great a problem, as with rare exception they are not widely read and are approached by many of the literary critics with considerable skepticism. But, they do go into the libraries, particularly in the academic field, and become source material to successive scholars. In this way the myths are perpetrated and, at least in the circles that want to hear this approach to world affairs, are accepted as proof that the myths are real.

In case you might find it edifying, I am also enclosing copies of our correspondence with Harper & Row on the McCoy book.

STATINTL

Sincerely,



Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

Enclosures

OGC:LRH:jeb

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